as a matter of prudent policy where the financial position and operational ency of the borrowing institutions cannot be considered good in relation e quantum of refinance required by them for adequately meeting the credit s at ground level. Further, wherever Govt. Guarantee is a requirement der the relevant provisions of NABARD Act (Section 22 and 28 of NABARD ct 1981), NABARD insists on the same. State Govt. guarantee is also stipulated by NABARD for providing refinance on behalf of DCCBs not complying with the provision of Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

(b) to (d) NABARD has evolved suitable norms to waive State Government guarantee and progressively link the banks' eligibility, quantum refinance support, etc. to their financial and operational strength as reflected by recovery/non performing asset (NPA) levels, audit classification, etc. Thus, under its existing policy, NABARD does not insist on State Government guarantee for sanction of short term (Seasonal Agricultural Operations) credit limits to scheduled SCBs on behalf of District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs). Similarly, short term credit limits to scheduled SCBs for weavers' operations on behalf of DCCBs with recovery level of atleast 60% schematic refinance on behalf of DCCBs with recovery level of atleast 80% and the entire refinance assistance for activities under non-farm sector to DCCBs having A/B classification in audit are provided by NABARD without Government Guarantee. In some case where SCBs do not fulfil the requirement of NABARD and are also not in a position to arrange Govt. guarantee NABARD refinance is still made available by accepting pledge of Govt. Trustee securities in lieu of Govt. guarantee.

Deputation of SC/ST officers for training abroad

5396. SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government nominate officers for training to the reputed Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial, administrative and technical capabilities in various fields at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, the number of officers sent abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the number of officers belonging the SC/ST category among such officers sent abroad for the said training abroad; and

(d) the reasons for not deputing adequate number of SC/ST officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINACNE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Foreign Training Programmes to which officers of various Services are nominated/deputed by the Department of Economic Affairs for training in foreign countries are under the Technical Cooperation Programmes such as Colombo Plan and Indo-Australia Training in Capacity Building Project in various bilateral/multilateral arrangements between the donor countries and Govt. of India and the entire cost thereon is borne by the foreign donor country. Under the these programmes, the cost of training is not required to be borne by the public exchequer/Government of India.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be furnished as soon as available.

Rate of WPI in the week ending on 8th April

†5397. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:
SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of wholesale price index was 4.64 per cent in the week ending on 8th April, 2000;

(b) if so, the reasons, for such a price rise; and

(c) the percentage of increase in the price of foodgrains, finished goods and fuel items attributed to this price rise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir. The provisional rate of inflation (point to point) based the wholesale price index was 4.64% in the week ending on 8th April, 2000.

(b) The recent rise in inflation rate is largely due to the increase the prices of administered items like LPG, kerosene, ATF and electricity. The direct impact of this price rise was reflected in the inflation rate by April 22, 2000.

(c) The increase in prices of some of the administered items pushed up the wholesale price index from 148.2 on April 1 to 151.5 on April 22, 2000 representing a 2.2% increase in the index in the first four weeks of April 2000. There was no increase in the prices of foodgrains and manufactured products in

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.